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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,900	02/17/2004	Emmanuel Sedda	GRY-118US	9612
23122	7590	06/09/2006	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA			RIDDLE, KYLE M	
P O BOX 980			ART UNIT	
VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482-0980			PAPER NUMBER	
			3748	

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/779,900	Applicant(s) SEDDA ET AL. ✓	
	Examiner Kyle M. Riddle	Art Unit 3748	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. The arguments presented in applicant's amendment received 20 March 2006 were deemed persuasive, however, a new non-final rejection is set forth below.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wright et al. (U.S. Patent 6,285,151).

Wright et al. disclose an electromechanical valve actuator comprising:

- two electromagnets 12, 18 with an upper core 14 and coil 16 and a lower core 20 and coil 22 with an armature 24 to actuate an engine valve 28 (column 2, line 67 with column 3, lines 1-15);

- controlling a variable current (column 5, lines 31-35) to effect switching from a first position with the armature 24 contacting core 14 to a second position with the armature 24 contacting core 20 (column 3, lines 16-34), the control based on engine operating conditions (column 3, lines 62-67, column 4, lines 4-9);

- simultaneously controlling the current through both electromagnetic coils 16, 22 (column 4, lines 14-20);

- progressively increasing the current to a peak value until a critical position is achieved (column 4, lines 30-37, column 5, lines 64-67 with column 6, lines 1-5; Figure 3), and immediately decreasing the current after reaching the critical position (column 4, lines 38-52; Figure 3).

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright et al. in view of Curtis et al. (U.S. Patent 6,532,919).

Wright et al. disclose an electromechanical valve actuator comprising two electromagnets with an upper core and coil and a lower core and coil with an armature to actuate an engine valve, controlling a variable current to effect switching from a first position with the armature contacting core to a second position with the armature contacting core, the control based on engine operating conditions, simultaneously controlling the current through both electromagnetic coils, progressively increasing the current to a peak value until a critical position is achieved, and immediately decreasing the current after reaching the critical position. They, however, fail to disclose reversing or inverting the current.

Curtis et al. teach a permanent magnet enhanced electromagnetic valve actuator that reverses or inverts the current through electromagnetic coil 24 to open and close valve 12 and reduce the landing velocity (column 3, lines 31-40, lines 45-48, lines 57-67 with column 4, lines

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1-4). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made, to have utilized the teaching by Curtis et al. in the electromechanical valve actuator of Wright et al., since the use thereof would have provided an alternate means to effect valve actuation.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Wright et al. in view of Curtis et al.

Wright et al. disclose the electromechanical valve actuator cited above, however, fail to disclose the permanent magnet having a higher intensity than the electromagnet.

Curtis et al. teach reversing or inverting the current through an electromagnetic coil having a permanent magnet. One of ordinary skill in the art would have reasonably assumed that the intensity of the magnetic field generated by the electromagnet could be less than the intensity of the permanent magnet to still provide valve actuation.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright et al. in view of Kawamura (U.S. Patent 5,111,779).

Wright et al. disclose the electromechanical valve actuator cited above, however, fail to disclose the permanent magnets mounted on an end portion of an E-shaped support structure.

Kawamura teaches an electromagnetic valve actuating system with fixed magnetic poles 4a and either side of a permanent magnet 3 (column 3, lines 9-14) forming generally an E-shaped structure, the permanent magnet 3 forming the middle portion of the "E". It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made, to have utilized the teaching by Kawamura in the electromechanical valve actuator of Wright et al., since

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the use thereof would have provided an alternate location of position the permanent magnets or reducing the number of magnets.

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright et al. in view of Hattori et al. (U.S. Patent 6,334,413).

Wright et al. disclose the electromechanical valve actuator cited above, however, fail to specifically disclose engine speed being the operating parameter of the engine.

Hattori et al. teach two polarized electromagnets with an upper core 40 and coil 48 and lower core 42 and coil 50 with a mobile armature 38 inbetween (column 4, lines 6-9), controlling the current to effect switching from a first position with the armature 38 contacting the upper coil 40 (column 4, lines 44-46) to a second position away from the upper core 40 and toward the lower core 42 (column 5, lines 9-24) based on the operating state of the engine computed by ECU 54 to include engine speed (column 4, lines 15-21), varying and reducing the attracting current as the armature 38 approaches the lower core 42 (column 4, lines 9-24), increasing or decreasing the amount of attracting or releasing current (amplitude) to effect transit times of the armature 38 (column 7, lines 61-67 with column 8, lines 1-10), and actuating intake and exhaust valves of an internal combustion engine (column 3, lines 25-28). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made, to have utilized the teaching by Hattori et al. in the electromechanical valve actuator of Wright et al., since the use thereof would have provided a specific engine operating condition for the basis of control of the valve actuation.

*Response to Arguments*

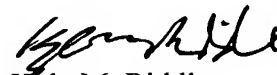
9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

*Communication*

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle M. Riddle whose telephone number is (571) 272-4864. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (07:30-5:00) Second Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Denion can be reached on (571) 272-4859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Kyle M. Riddle  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3748

kmr



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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